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Splashes of purple and gold turn our desert floor into an ocean of color this time of year. Mother Nature was stingy with the November rains needed for a bumper crop of desert wildflowers in March, but this year's toned-down display is still worth seeing. "In years of abundant rain, there are so many wildflowers it's shocking. This is not one of those years, but there will still be brilliant colors and plenty of flowers to enjoy," said Ellen Bibrey, spokeswoman for...

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They're the darlings of the desert, the spring wildflowers. In a good year, carpets of color across the desert floor or up mountain slopes turn heads and stop traffic. During dry years, the wildflowers' delicate but showy forms appear more timidly on the harsh landscape. Like temperamental artists who won't perform except under ideal conditions, wildflowers make capricious appearances from year to year. If anything fails in their mix of demands, it affects their...

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Arizona Republic, The (Phoenix, AZ)
March 9, 2003
Author: Christine Mann, Special for The Republic
Estimated printed pages: 4

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